



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

**NASHUA MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL MARIJUANA DISTRIBUTION AND
WEAPON CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Christopher Ducharme

Concord, New Hampshire -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. Attorney General Peter Heed, and Nashua Police Chief Donald Gross announced that **Christopher Ducharme**, date of birth 11-4-73, of Nashua, NH was convicted of marijuana distribution and weapon possession charges.

DUCHARME was arrested by Nashua and New Hampshire Drug Task Force officers on July 24, 2003 as part of an undercover marijuana distribution investigation in Nashua.

DUCHARME entered a guilty plea, before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr., to an information alleging that he possessed with the intent to distribute marijuana, and unlawfully possessed a firearm when his home was searched on July 24, 2003. DUCHARME admitted habitual drug use to investigating detectives. Unlawful drug users are prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms.

Judge DiClerico released DUCHARME pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for February 2, 2003 in the U.S. District Court in Concord. DUCHARME faces a potential maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level marijuana dealers operating in Nashua and New Hampshire's other larger cities. This N.H. Drug Task Force investigation is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. This Office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

U.S. Attorney Colantuono also stated: “DUCCHARME’s conviction also exemplifies this Office’s commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of unlawful drug users and traffickers is one of our main objectives. This office will vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we continue to implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire.”

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the N.H. Drug Task Force and the Nashua Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.